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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W		
				-----CD11DF	181454Z	/02	

R 172119Z JUL 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6797
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMCONSUL CURACAO

UNCLAS CARACAS 002075

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO

E.O. 12958: NA
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: JULY 17, 2002

1. SUMMARY: TODAY THE TSJ ANNOUNCED ITS JUDGMENT TO GIVE
ATTORNEY GENERAL RODRIGUEZ FORTY-EIGHT HOURS TO DECIDE ON
WHETHER TO EXCLUDE HIMSELF FROM ALL PENDING CASES AGAINST
PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. ALSO, THE TSJ DECIDED TO DISMISS A PETITION
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SEEKING THE DECLARATION OF INSANITY OF CHAVEZ. LAST FRIDAY,
FOURTEEN VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIANS TRIED TO ILLEGALLY MIGRATE
BY BOAT TO CURACAO DUE TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS. A NEWS REPORT OF
NA DEPUTIES NOT GETTING PAID WAS PROVED INACCURATE. ONCE AGAIN,
BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES INSTIGATE FEAR, MAYOR OF LECHERIA ALEXIS
ORTIZ FEARS FOR HIS TOWN THAT CONSISTENTLY VOTED AGAINST CHAVEZ.
END SUMMARY

COUNTDOWN FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

2. TODAY THE TSJ PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION GIVING ATTORNEY
GENERAL ISAIAS RODRIGUEZ FORTY-EIGHT HOURS TO DECIDE WHETHER HE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 17 JUL 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 23 FEB 2007 200503643

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WILL EXCLUDE HIMSELF FROM PRESIDING OVER ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, IN A STATEMENT MADE FOLLOWING THE TSJ'S DECISION, ATTORNEY TULIO ALVAREZ REQUESTED THAT THE TSJ SEPARATE RODRIGUEZ FROM ALL ONGOING CASES AGAINST CHAVEZ.

CHAVEZ NOT NUTS, COURT SAYS

3. A PETITION BROUGHT FORTH IN JANUARY BY HENRY RAMOS (AD) AND RAFAEL MARIN (AD) SEEKING THE DECLARATION OF INSANITY OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WAS DISMISSED JULY 16 BY THE SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF JUSTICE (TSJ).

VENEZUELAN BOAT PEOPLE

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4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ON JULY 12, FOURTEEN VENEZUELAN AND COLOMBIANS WERE DETAINED AFTER ARRIVING BY BOAT ON THE SOUTHEASTERN COAST OF CURACAO PROBABLY DUE TO ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS. ONE OF TWO BOATS HEADING TO THE ISLAND WAS DETAINED BY THE COAST GUARD AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE MANAGED TO ARREST AND CHARGE TWO WITH ALIEN SMUGGLING. APPARENTLY, EACH PASSENGER PAID \$400 FOR THE TRIP TO CURACAO.

NA DEPUTIES RECEIVED SALARY DESPITE INACCURATE PRESS REPORTS

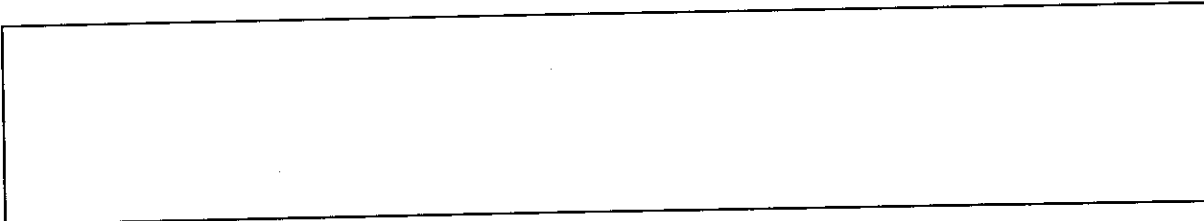
5. PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOV DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE SALARIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES HAVE PROVEN INACCURATE. THE PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE NOT ONE OF CASH-FLOW, BUT RATHER OF BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY. CALLS TO SEVERAL DEPUTIES CONFIRMED THAT THE DEPUTIES WERE, IN FACT, PAID. THERE WAS A PAPERWORK PROBLEM, HOWEVER, THAT PREVENTED SOME DEPUTIES FROM CASHING THEIR CHECKS.

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